

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully requests reconsideration of the instant application on the basis of newly amended Claim 3 and 6. Claim 3 is the main claims and the remaining claims are directly or indirectly dependent upon that claim.

The Examiner has rejected the claims as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,514,928 by Niewold (*Niewold*) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,573,173 by van der Wilk *et al.* (*van der Wilk*). It is believed that Claims 3 to 7 are clearly distinguishable over these two references for the reasons that will be set forth.

Claim 3 has been amended to include the limitations found in claim 5 that has now been cancelled. Claim 6 has been amended to reflect dependency on Claim 3 and has been further amended to overcome the Claim Objections raised by the Examiner.

35 U.S.C. § 103 Grounds for Rejection

The Examiner rejected Claims 3, 4 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,514,928 by Niewold (*Niewold*) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,573,173 by van der Wilk *et al.* (*van der Wilk*). Applicants respectfully traverses these rejections for the reasons discussed below.

Applicants have now amended claim 3 to incorporate the limitation of claim 5 that the Examiner has indicated as including allowable subject matter.

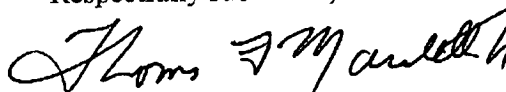
Dependent Claims 4, 6-7 that depend from independent Claim 3 are also not made obvious by *Niewold* in view of *van der Wilk* because they include the limitations of Claim 3 and add additional elements that further distinguish the art. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that Claims 3-7 be allowed.

Conclusion

Applicant has now made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for allowance. In light of the amendments and remarks set forth above, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of Claims 3-7.

If there are matters which can be discussed by telephone to further the prosecution of this Application, Applicant invites the Examiner to call the attorney at the number listed below at the Examiner's convenience.

Respectfully submitted,



Thomas F. Marsteller, Jr.
Registration No. 29,672

Marsteller & Associates, P.C.
PO Box 803302
Dallas, TX 75380-3302
(972) 233-0939
(972) 386-3907 (Fax)

Date: November 15, 2004